IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 9 (cancelled).

10. (previously presented) A device for no-hands transfer of a scalpel comprising an injection-molded thermoplastic body including a supporting base,

a scalpel blade receiver adjacent one end of the base,

a scalpel handle grip adjacent an end of the base opposite said one end, the receiver being arranged to limit freedom of movement of the blade laterally while allowing pitch movement of a handle of a scalpel, the handle grip being arranged to receive a mid-section of the handle of a scalpel in a pitch movement towards the base while its blade is received in the receiver, the grip being arranged to resist longitudinal reverse movement of the scalpel blade out of the receiver and the grip and pitch movement out of the grip with a friction force sufficient to reliably hold a scalpel handle in a gripped position while the device is handled by a surgical nurse to present the scalpel handle in

a vertical or near vertical position for grasping by a surgeon,

the blade receiver including a narrow throat area to laterally confine the scalpel blade,

the throat area including a thin membrane that is adapted to be cut by the scalpel blade.

11. (previously presented) A device for no-hands transfer of a scalpel comprising an injection-molded thermoplastic body including a supporting base,

a scalpel blade receiver adjacent one end of the base,

a scalpel handle grip adjacent an end of the base opposite said one end, the receiver being arranged to limit freedom of movement of the blade laterally while allowing pitch movement of a handle of a scalpel, the handle grip being arranged to receive a mid-section of the handle of a scalpel in a pitch movement towards the base while its blade is received in the receiver, the grip being arranged to resist longitudinal reverse movement of the scalpel blade out of the receiver and the grip and pitch movement out of the grip with a friction force sufficient to reliably hold a scalpel handle in a gripped position while the device is handled by a surgical nurse to present the scalpel handle in

a vertical or near vertical position for grasping by a surgeon,

the base including a needle presentation zone including an open slot and magnetic sheet material on opposite sides of said slot, said slot being adapted to receive the jaws of a needle holder.

Claims 12 - 14 (cancelled).

15. (previously presented) A multi-purpose surgical sharps handling device comprising an injection-molded thermoplastic body including a scalpel holder and a closable sharps receiving container, the scalpel holder having a blade receiving zone and a handle gripping area that cooperate to support a scalpel in a cantilever arrangement whereby a substantial portion of the length of the scalpel handle is free of obstruction and it is thereby readily grasped, the receiving container being adjacent said blade receiving zone and remote from said gripping area,

said receiving container comprising a shallow box including a bottom wall, said bottom wall having a magnetic sheet for holding sharps.

16. (original) A surgical sharps handling device as set forth in claim 15, wherein said magnetic sheet includes a grid to facilitate counting of sharps received in said container.

17. (original) A surgical sharps handling device as set forth in claim 16, including a cover for said container, said cover being sufficiently transparent to permit counting of sharps in said container when said cover is closed.

Claims 18 - 19 (cancelled).

20. (previously presented) A multi-purpose surgical sharps handling device comprising an injection-molded thermoplastic body including a scalpel holder and a closable sharps receiving container, the scalpel holder having a blade receiving zone and a handle gripping area that cooperate to support a scalpel in a cantilever arrangement whereby a substantial portion of the length of the scalpel handle is free of obstruction and it is thereby readily grasped, the receiving container being adjacent said blade receiving zone and remote from said gripping area,

said scalpel holder including a magnetic needle holding area having an open slot, the magnetic holding area

straddling said slot having magnetic material on each lateral side of said slot.

Claims 21 and 22 (cancelled).

23. (previously presented) A multi-purpose surgical sharps handling device comprising an injection-molded thermoplastic body including a scalpel holder and a closable sharps receiving container, the scalpel holder having a blade receiving zone and a handle gripping area that cooperate to support a scalpel in a cantilever arrangement whereby a substantial portion of the length of the scalpel handle is free of obstruction and it is thereby readily grasped, the receiving container being adjacent said blade receiving zone and remote from said gripping area,

the scalpel holder and sharps receiving container being accessible from a common face of the device,

a suture pack mounting zone on a face of said device opposite said common face,

said mounting zone being partially formed by legs on said opposite face.

24. (original) A surgical sharps handling device as set forth in claim 23, wherein said legs include pressure-

sensitive adhesive for adhering said device to a supporting surface.

25. (previously presented) A multi-purpose surgical sharps handling device comprising an injection-molded thermoplastic body including a scalpel holder and a closable sharps receiving container, the scalpel holder having a blade receiving zone and a handle gripping area that cooperate to support a scalpel in a cantilever arrangement whereby a substantial portion of the length of the scalpel handle is free of obstruction and it is thereby readily grasped, the receiving container being adjacent said blade receiving zone and remote from said gripping area, and

a magnetic sheet disposed in said container to magnetically retain sharps in said container.

26. (original) A surgical sharps handling device as set forth in claim 25, including a grid visually dividing the magnetic sheet in the container to facilitate counting of sharps deposited therein.

Claims 27 and 28 (cancelled).